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We Claim:

- 1           1. A system in a vehicle for accessing first  
2 information about a given aspect of said vehicle comprising:  
3                 a display element for displaying a plurality of  
4 options, each option being associated with a respective one  
5 of a plurality of aspects of said vehicle;  
6                 an interface for selecting a particular one of  
7 said options, the selected option being associated with said  
8 given aspect and in a first status; and  
9                 an output for providing second information about  
10 said selected option, said selected option being activated  
11 to access said first information, the activated option being  
12 in a second status.
- 1           2. The system of claim 1 wherein said vehicle  
2 comprises an automobile.
- 1           3. The system of claim 1 wherein said display  
2 element comprises a liquid crystal display (LCD).
- 1           4. The system of claim 1 wherein said interface  
2 includes a touch-screen capability.
- 1           5. The system of claim 1 wherein said first  
2 status is indicated by a highlight on said selected option  
3 in a first color.
- 1           6. The system of claim 5 wherein said second  
2 status is indicated by a highlight on the activated option  
3 in a second color.

1           7. The system of claim 1 wherein said output  
2 includes audio element for conveying said first information  
3 verbally.

1           8. A method for use in a system in a vehicle for  
2 accessing first information about a given aspect of said  
3 vehicle comprising the steps of:

4           displaying a plurality of options, each option  
5 being associated with a respective one of a plurality of  
6 aspects of said vehicle;

7           selecting a particular one of said options, the  
8 selected option being associated with said given aspect and  
9 in a first status; and

10          providing second information about said selected  
11 option, said selected option being activated to access said  
12 first information, the activated option being in a second  
13 status.

1           9. The method of claim 8 wherein the particular  
2 one of said options is selected using a touch-screen  
3 technique.

1           10. The method of claim 8 wherein said first  
2 status is indicated by a highlight on said selected option  
3 in a first color.

1           11. The method of claim 10 wherein said second  
2 status is indicated by a highlight on the activated option  
3 in a second color.

1           12. The method of claim 8 further comprising the  
2 step of conveying said first information verbally.

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